

Group VIII: Claim 29.

Applicants have elected, with traverse, Group II, Claims 7-10.

Restriction is only proper if the claims of the restricted groups are either independent or patentably distinct. MPEP §803. The burden is on the Examiner to provide adequate reasons and/or examples to support any conclusion of patentable distinctness between the restricted inventions. MPEP §803. Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement on the ground that no adequate reasons and/or examples have been provided to support a conclusion of patentable distinctness between the claims of any of Groups I-VIII.

The Examiner has characterized the relationship of the claims of Groups I to the claims of Groups II, III, and VI as one of product and method of using. However, the claims of Groups I and II are clearly not so related. Accordingly, no adequate reasons and/or examples have been provided to support a conclusion of patentable distinctness between the inventions of Groups I and II.

Similarly, the Examiner has characterized the relationship of the claims of Group IV to the claims of Groups II, VI, and VIII as one of product and method of using. However, the claims of Groups IV and II are clearly not so related. Accordingly, no adequate reasons and/or examples have been provided to support a conclusion of patentable distinctness between the inventions of Groups IV and II.

Likewise, the Examiner has characterized the relationship of the claims of Group V to the claims of Groups II, III, and VIII as one of product and method of using. However, the claims of Groups V and II are clearly not so related. Accordingly, no adequate reasons and/or examples have been provided to support a conclusion of patentable distinctness between the inventions of Groups V and II.

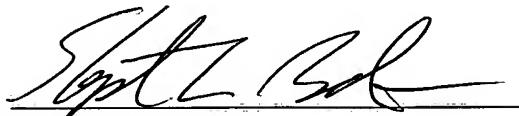
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Reply to Office Action dated October 3, 2003

Accordingly, the Restriction Requirement is improper and should be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that the above-identified application is now ready for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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